

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

ANNA MAINER, on behalf of
herself and those similarly situated,

CASE NO.: 3:14-cv-60

Plaintiff,

v.

M & P INNOVATIVE ENTERPRISES,
A Georgia Profit Corporation, and
CHERRY PEARSON, individually,

Defendants.

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
2014 JUN 30 PM 12:07
DEPUTY CLERK

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, ANNA MAINER ("WALL" or "Plaintiff"), on behalf of herself and other employees and former employees similarly situated, by and through undersigned counsel, files this Complaint against Defendants, M&P INNOVATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC. ("M&P"), a Georgia Profit Corporation, and CHERRY PEARSON ("PEARSON"), individually, (collectively Defendants) and states as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. Jurisdiction in this Court is proper as the claims are brought pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended (29 U.S.C. §201, *et seq.*, hereinafter called the "FLSA") to recover unpaid back wages, an additional equal amount as liquidated damages, obtain declaratory relief, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

2. The jurisdiction of the Court over this controversy is based upon 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

3. This Court has the authority to grant declaratory relief pursuant to the FLSA and the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act ("DJA"), 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-02.

PARTIES

4. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was and continues to be a resident of Clayton County, GA.

5. At all times material hereto, M&P was and continues to be a Georgia Profit Corporation.

6. At all times material hereto, M&P was and continues to be engaged in business in Georgia, with its principal place of business in Clayton County, Georgia

7. At all times material hereto, M&P operated and continues to operate a preschool/daycare center and thus is an enterprise covered under the FLSA. *See* 29 U.S.C. § 203(S)(1)(b).

8. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was “engaged in commerce” within the meaning of §6 and §7 of the FLSA.

9. Specifically, Plaintiff regularly handled materials and tools, which had previously traveled in interstate commerce such as hand tools, sprinklers, and other materials, worked in multiple states and territories for Defendants throughout his employment, and did horizontal drilling for commercial construction throughout his employment with Defendants.

10. At all times material hereto, PEARSON was and continues to be resident of Clayton County, GA.

11. At all times material hereto, PEARSON operated M&P.

12. At all times material hereto, PEARSON regularly held and/or exercised the authority to hire and fire employees of M&P.

13. At all times material hereto, PEARSON regularly held and/or exercised the authority to determine the work schedules for the employees of M&P.

14. At all times material hereto, PEARSON regularly held and/or exercised the authority control the finances and operations of M&P.

15. By virtue of having regularly held and/or exercised the authority to: (a) hire and fire employees of M&P; (b) determine the work schedules for the employees of M&P; and (c) control the finances and operations of M&P, PEARSON is an employer as defined by 29 U.S.C. 201 *et. seq.*

16. Plaintiff was an “employee,” of Defendants within the meaning of FLSA.

17. At all times material hereto, Defendants were the “employer” within the meaning of FLSA.

18. Defendants were and continue to be an “employer” within the meaning of FLSA.

19. Based upon information and belief, the annual gross revenue of Defendants was in excess of \$500,000.00 per annum during the relevant time periods.

20. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants had more than two employees.

21. At all times material hereto, Defendants had two (2) or more employees handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods or materials that had been moved in or produced for commerce, such as toys, office supplies, computers and other tools and materials necessary for the day-to-day operation of Defendants’ business.

22. The additional persons who may become plaintiffs in this action are/were “non-exempt employees” for Defendants, who held similar positions to Plaintiff and who worked in excess of forty (40) hours during one or more work weeks during the relevant time periods but who did not receive pay at one and one-half times their regular rate for their hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours.

23. At all times material hereto, the work performed by the Plaintiff was directly essential to the business performed by Defendants.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

24. On or about 2001, Defendants hired Plaintiff to work as a daycare attendant.

25. At various material times hereto, Plaintiff worked for Defendants in excess of forty (40) hours within a work week.

26. From at least 2001, and continuing through the present date, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff at a rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a single work week.

27. Plaintiff should be compensated at the rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate for those hours that Plaintiff worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week, as required by the FLSA.

28. Defendants have violated Title 29 U.S.C. §207 from 2001, and continuing through the present day, in that:

- a. Plaintiff worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week for the period of employment with Defendants;
- b. No payments or provisions for payment have been made by Defendants to properly compensate Plaintiff at the statutory rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate for those hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per work week, as provided by the FLSA; and
- c. Defendants failed to maintain proper time records as mandated by the FLSA.

29. Plaintiff has retained the law firm of MORGAN & MORGAN, P.A. to represent his in the litigation and has agreed to pay the firm a reasonable fee for its services.

COUNT I
VIOLATION OF 29 U.S.C. §207 OVERTIME COMPENSATION

30. Plaintiff re-alleges and reavers paragraphs 1 through 29 of the Complaint, as if fully set forth herein.

31. From 2001, and continuing through the present, Plaintiff has worked in excess of the forty (40) hours per week for which Plaintiff was not compensated at the statutory rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate of pay.

32. Plaintiff was and is entitled to be paid at the statutory rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate of pay for those hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours.

33. At all times material hereto, Defendants failed and continue to fail to maintain proper time records as mandated by the FLSA.

34. Defendants' actions were willful and/or showed reckless disregard for the provisions of the FLSA, as evidenced by their failure to compensate Plaintiff at the statutory rate of one and one-half times Plaintiff's regular rate of pay for the hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per weeks when they knew, or should have known, such was, and is due.

35. Moreover, when Plaintiff confronted Defendants regarding their flagrant FLSA violations they still failed to pay Plaintiff in accordance with the FLSA. Rather, they began paying other employees overtime, and reduced Plaintiff's hours so that she was no longer working in excess of 40 hours per week.

36. Defendants failed to properly disclose or apprise Plaintiff of her rights under the FLSA.

37. Due to the intentional, willful, and unlawful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer damages and lost compensation for time worked over forty (40) hours per week, plus liquidated damages.

38. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

39. At all times material hereto, Defendants failed to comply with Title 29 and United States Department of Labor Regulations, 29 C.F.R. §§516.2 and 516.4, with respect to those similarly situated to the named Plaintiff by virtue of the management policy, plan or decision that intentionally provided for the compensation of such employees at a rate less than time and a half for their overtime hours.

40. Based upon information and belief, the employees and former employees of Defendants similarly situated to Plaintiff were not paid proper overtime for hours worked in excess of forty (40) in one or more workweeks because Defendants failed to properly pay Plaintiff, and those similarly situated to his, proper overtime wages at time and a half their regular rate of pay for such hours.

41. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered in his favor against Defendants:

- a. Declaring, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§2201 and 2202, that the acts and practices complained of herein are in violation of the maximum hour provisions of the FLSA;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff the declaratory relief sought herein;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff overtime compensation in the amount due to her for Plaintiff's time worked in excess of forty (40) hours per work week;
- d. Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages in an amount equal to the overtime award;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs and expenses of the

litigation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b);

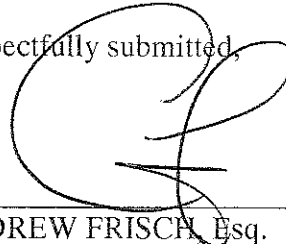
- f. Awarding Plaintiff pre-judgment interest; and
- g. Ordering any other further relief the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues so triable as a matter of right by jury.

Dated: June ___, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Frisch', is written over a horizontal line.

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